

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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NIAMEY FOR RDO

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAID, ECIN
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON WEST AFRICAN BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. CAPITAL: THE SUBJECT BANK, WHOSE INITIALS ARE
BOAD IN FRENCH, HAS AN ENDOWMENT OF \$14 MILLION FROM
THE MEMBER STATES (TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, BENIN,
IVORY COAST, MALI, MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL) WHO ARE
MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF THE WEST AFRICAN STATES
(FRANCOPHONE). IT ALSO HAS A CAPITALIZATION OF
\$10 MILLION FROM THESE STATES. IN ADDITION, FRANCE
INVESTED \$2 MILLION IN DECEMBER 1975. WEST
GERMANY HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(A PROJECT ENGINEER) AND IS ALSO TO PUT UP \$2 MILLION.
CANADA IS STUDYING SIMILAR PARTICIPATION AND THE
ARAB BANK FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (KHARTOUM) IS TO
PUT UP \$1.7 MILLION IN 1977. THE BOAD PROPOSED THAT
THE U.S. PARTICIPATE IN THE BANK AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN 1975 BUT NEVER RECEIVED A
DIRECT RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO PIERRE DAMIBA,
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BOAD PRESIDENT.

2. REGIONAL PROJECTS:

A) TELECOMMUNICATIONS. THE FIRST PRIORITY
IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EITHER A MICROWAVE RELAY
OR SATELLITE SYSTEM TO SERVICE THE MEMBER STATES.

SOFRECOM (SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'ETUDES ET DE REALISATIONS D'EQUIPEMENTS DE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PARIS) SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH BOAD IN JANUARY 1977 FOR A \$120,000 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SIX-NATION TELEPHONE, TELEX AND TELECOMPUTER CAPABILITY. STUDY IS TO BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOAD, COUNCIL OF ENTENTE (ABIDJAN) AND CEAO (OUAGADOUGOU). INTERFACING WITH ECOWAS IS CONTEMPLATED IN STUDY.

B) ENERGY. A PROGRAM TO SUPPLEMENT THE CAPACITY OF THE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CAPABILITY OF THE COMMUNAUTE ELECTRIQUE DE BENIN (BENIN AND TOGO) IS BEING STUDIED. AN OUTLAY OF \$12 MILLION IS CONTEMPLATED, HALF TO BE PROVIDED BY BOAD AND HALF BY CAISSE CENTRAL DE COOPERATION OF FRANCE.

C) TRANSPORT. A REGIONAL ROAD SYSTEM INITIALLY STUDIED BY AID IS LIKELY TO BE FINANCED. THE ROAD WILL RUN FROM NIGER TO UPPER VOLTA (NIAMEY-FADA). FINANCING IS CONTEMPLATED FROM SAUDI ARABIA, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND FED OF EEC.

3. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. A THREE-MAN WORLD BANK TEAM HAS ARRIVED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BOAD. THE BOAD IS ALSO IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ECOWAS ABOUT FUTURE ROLES FOR EACH ORGANIZATION. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY DISCUSSED BOAD WITH ROMEO HORTON, DIRECTOR OF THE ECOWAS FUND FOR COMPENSATION AND DEVELOPMENT, ON FEBRUARY 9. HE SAID HE SAW FUTURE ROLES FOR THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY IN MANNER SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE IBRD (BOAD) AND IMF (ECOWAS FUND). BOTH HORTON AND DAMIBA BELIEVE THE BOAD WILL HAVE TO BE ENLARGED EVENTUALLY TO INCLUDE ALL THE ECOWAS STATES. PALMER

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